

Message Text

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S E C R E T PARIS 23760

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS - FRENCH VERSION OF
COPENHAGEN MEETING

1. SUMMARY: QUAI DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR ARNAUD TOLD
POL COUNS SEPTEMBER 7 THAT RESULTS OF COPENHAGEN POLITICAL
COMMITTEE MEETINGS MADE HIM "OPTIMISTIC" AS REGARDS BOTH
A SATISFACTORY EUROPEAN REESPONSE TO A POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL
TRIP TO EUROPE THIS FALL AND EC EFFORTS TO DEVELOP AND
EUROPEAN "IDENTITY." END SUMMARY.

2. ARNAUD SAID THE NINE HAVE BEEN HARD AT WORK, BI-
LATERALLY AND AT COPENHAGEN, ON TWO OBJECTIVES: (A) A
LONG-TERM EXAMINATION OF THE EC IDENTITY, POSTURE AND POLICIES
DESIGNED TO FIND THE MOST SENSIBLE, EFFECTIVE WAY FOR
EUROPE TO TREAT WITH THE US OVER THE LONG HAUL ON
PRIMARILY ECONOMIC MATTERS; AND (B) THE SHORT-TERM
PROBLEM OF HOW TO RESPOND TO PRESIDENT NIXON'S WISH
TO COME TO EUROPE THIS FALL.

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3. ON THE LONG-TERM QUESTION, ARNAUD SAID THERE HAD
BEEN A RATHER DISCURSIVE BRITISH DRAFT IN WHICH THE
FRENCH HAD FOUND MANY GOOD POINTS WHICH THEY COULD SUPPORT.
SUBSEQUENTLY, FRENCH INTRODUCED A MORE CONCISE DRAFT IN WHICH

THEY ATTEMPTED TO DEFINE ELEMENTS OF AN EUROPEAN IDENTITY AND TO NOTE AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST WHICH BIND THE US AND EUROPE TOGETHER. WITH EVIDENT SATISFACTION, ARNAUD SAID THAT FRANCE'S EC PARTNERS -- LONG ACCUSTOMED TO ASCRIBING DARK INTENTIONS TO FRANCE IN HER ALLEGED EFFORTS TO CONFUSE US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS -- HAD BEEN PLEASANTLY SURPRISED AT THE COMPREHENSIVE AND POSITIVE NATURE OF FRENCH DRAFT WHICH APPEARED TO MEET PRACTICALLY ALL THEIR BASIC REQUIREMENTS. THE RESULT, SAID ARNAUD, HAD BEEN NEAR UNANIMITY IN SUPPORT OF THE FRENCH DRAFT.

4. ON THE SHORT-TERM QUESTION, ARNAUD SAID THE EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS HAD AGREED ON THE BASIC ELEMENTS TO BE CONTAINED IN A COMMUNIQUE WHICH, IF ENDORSED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS, WOULD BE ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SEPTEMBER 10-11 MEETING. THIS COMMUNIQUE (OR STATEMENT) WOULD THEN REPRESENT THE COMMON POSITION OF THE EC 9 AND WOULD FORM THE BASIS FOR SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH USG OFFICIALS RE A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO EUROPE THIS FALL. ARNAUD SAID THE 9 POLITICAL DIRECTORS WERE UNANIMOUS ON THE BASIC PROPOSITION THAT THE PRESIDENT'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY SHOULD BE CENTERED ON ECONOMIC QUESTIONS, BUT THIS WOULD NOT PRECLUDE RECOGNITION IN A PREAMBLE TO AN EVENTUAL COMMUNIQUE THAT THERE ARE ALSO POLITICAL ISSUES RELATED TO THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. SIMILARLY, AS REGARDS POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS ON SECURITY QUESTIONS IN THE NATO CONTEXT, THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION TO INCLUDING A PREAMBULAR REFERENCE TO RELATED ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES.

5. ARNAUD UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE FRANCE ATTACHES TO THE COPENHAGEN MEETING BY POINTING OUT THAT JOBERT WOULD ATTEND THAT MEETING DESPITE HAVING TO MISS THE EARLY PART OF PRESIDENT POMPIDOU'S VISIT TO CHINA. HE ALSO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT DESPITE FRANCE'S PREFERENCE FOR RATHER STRICT INTERPRETATION OF THE TREATY OF ROME (I.E.E. CONCENTRATION ON
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BUILDING ECONOMIC EUROPE), THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE "POLITICAL" EVOLUTION OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND THE NECESSITY TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM OF THE US-EUROPEAN DIALOGUE.

6. IN CONCLUSION, ARNAUD PREDICTED THAT THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD ENDORSE THE WORK OF THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS AND THAT THE RESULTS WOULD WARRANT A PRESIDENTIAL TRIP TO EUROPE THIS FALL.

7. COMMENT: IF TRUE THAT GOF IS AS POSITIVE AND FLEXIBLE AS ARNAUD WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE, THIS NEW ATTITUDE IS PROBABLY RESULT OF FRENCH FEAR OF BEING ISOLATED IN NINE AND ESPECIALLY THEIR DESIRE NOT TO BE TAGGED AS RESPONSIBLE

FOR THE PRESIDENT'S NOT COMING TO EUROPE THIS FALL, SHOULD
THIS TURN OUT TO BE THE CASE.
IRWIN

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